United Nations S/2015/799

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 October 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 19 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on 17 October 2015 regarding the proposal to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **JA** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on 17 October 2015

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued the following statement on Saturday, 17 October 2015:

As already known to the world, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), at the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, reclarified its fair and above board stand to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty.

This was prompted by the urgent need to defuse the danger of a war caused by the potential threat to the Korean Peninsula and create a climate for durable peace.

The situation on the peninsula last August when a trifling, accidental case created a touch-and-go situation all of a sudden finally proved that the present Armistice Agreement could no longer avert a conflict and defuse the danger of a war.

An agreement was reached between the north and the south with much effort thanks to the DPRK's peace-loving stand and persevering patience, but there is no guarantee that the agreement will be preserved and implemented as desired.

It is because the south Korean authorities, a party to the agreement, do not have any prerogative of command over any armed force in south Korea and are not in a position to reject any joint military drill imposed by the U.S.

It is as clear as day that if a conflict occurs again in the area along the Military Demarcation Line due to the escalating tension, it will spill over into an uncontrollable all-out war.

The course of the negotiations held so far for the settlement of the issue on the Korean Peninsula has proven that no issue in which the countries concerned, including the U.S., are interested can be settled unless a peace treaty is concluded before anything else.

The DPRK once discussed the issue of denuclearization at the six-party talks by taking into consideration the assertion of the countries concerned that the issue of denuclearization should be discussed before anything else, and has simultaneously discussed both the nuclear issue and the issue of ensuring peace in the past. But all these discussions proved futile and, even when a partial agreement was reached, it was not implemented.

This was mainly because the U.S. persistently pursued its hostile policy towards the DPRK, and its military provocations, such as large-scale joint military exercises and the introduction of nuclear striking means into south Korea, were its vivid manifestation, and periodically chilled the atmosphere of all negotiations and ratcheted up the tension on the peninsula.

In order to put a definite end to the evil cycle of escalating confrontation and tension it is necessary to replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty before anything else. This is the conclusion drawn by the DPRK.

There are two ways for ensuring peace on the peninsula.

The first one is the Cold War way in which the DPRK has to bolster its capability for self-defence with its nuclear force as a pivot in every way so as to cope with the increased nuclear threat and war provocations of the U.S.

It is entirely thanks to the DPRK's nuclear deterrence that all-out war has been averted on the peninsula and is in a state of ceasefire.

The other way is for the U.S. to roll back its hostile policy towards the DPRK and respond to the call for concluding the peace treaty with the latter so as to ensure genuine and lasting peace based on confidence.

The issue of replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty is the matter on which the U.S. should make a bold decision first, and there should be a principled agreement between the DPRK and the U.S. to begin with.

The United Nations, too, should positively support the conclusion of the peace treaty and thus fulfil its responsibility for putting an end to the abnormal situation where its Member State is technically at war with the "United Nations Command" on the Korean Peninsula.

If the confidence-building between the DPRK and the U.S. helps remove the source of imminent war, it will be possible to finally put an end to the nuclear arms race and consolidate peace.

The U.S. should drop the idea of groundlessly shunning the issue of concluding the peace treaty and prudently take a right option.

If the U.S. shuns the conclusion of the peace treaty or puts a conditionality on it even at this time, when the situation on the peninsula has reached a crucial turning point, this attitude will clearly show the world that it has no intention of rolling back its hostile policy towards the DPRK.

If the U.S. insists on its hostile policy, it will see only the DPRK's limitless bolstering of nuclear deterrence and the growth of its revolutionary armed forces capable of fighting any form of war to be ignited by the former.